

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1807

To provide distance learning to potential and existing entrepreneurs, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was
referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To provide distance learning to potential and existing
entrepreneurs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Educating Entre-
5 preneurs through Today’s Technology Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EDUCATING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TECH-**
7 **NOLOGY.**

8 The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is
9 amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45 and
10 by inserting the following new section after section 43:

1 **“SEC. 44. EDUCATING ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY.**

3 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
4 provide high-quality multilingual distance learning to po-
5 tential and existing entrepreneurs through the use of tech-
6 nology.

7 “(b) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
8 ‘qualified third-party vendor’ means an entity with experi-
9 ence in distance learning content or communications tech-
10 nology, or both, with the ability to utilize on-line, satellite,
11 video-on-demand, and connected community-based organi-
12 zations to distribute and conduct distance learning related
13 to entrepreneurship, credit management, financial lit-
14 eracy, and Federal small business development programs.

15 “(c) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall contract
16 with qualified third-party vendors for entrepreneurial
17 training content and the development of communications
18 technology that can distribute content under this section
19 throughout the United States. The Administrator shall
20 contract with qualified third-party vendors to develop con-
21 tent in English and at least two other languages that are
22 not English. For the purposes of this section, the Adminis-
23 trator shall designate the languages other than English
24 by taking into account the general needs of the business
25 community.

1 “(d) CONTENT.—The Administrator shall ensure
2 that the content referred to in subsection (c) is timely and
3 relevant to entrepreneurial development and can be suc-
4 cessfully communicated remotely to an audience through
5 the use of technology. The Administrator shall, to the
6 maximum extent practicable, promote content that makes
7 use of technologies that allow for remote interaction by
8 the content provider with an audience. The Administrator
9 shall ensure that the content is catalogued and accessible
10 to small businesses on-line or through other remote tech-
11 nologies.

12 “(e) COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The Admin-
13 istrator shall ensure that the communications technology
14 referred to in subsection (c) is able to distribute content
15 throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United
16 States to small business concerns, home-based businesses,
17 Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business
18 Centers, Veterans Business Centers, and the Small Busi-
19 ness Administration. To the extent possible, the qualified
20 third-party vendor should deliver the content using
21 broadband technology.

22 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator
23 shall submit a report to Congress 6 months after the date
24 of the enactment of this section containing an analysis of
25 the Small Business Administration’s progress in imple-

1 menting this section. The Administrator shall submit a re-
2 port to Congress one year after the date of the enactment
3 of this section and annually thereafter containing the
4 number of presentations made under this section, the
5 number of small businesses served under this section, the
6 extent to which this section resulted in the establishment
7 of new businesses, and feedback on the usefulness of this
8 medium in presenting entrepreneurial education through-
9 out the United States.

10 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.”.

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